

in collusion with forest officials and others, have been busted; if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken against them and otherwise to prevent depletion of wild life population, indicating the species that have so far gone extinct and those endangered and on verge of extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Details of important wildlife seizures made between 1996 and 2000 by Regional Wildlife Preservation Offices of Government of India and others are given in Annexure [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 20]

(b) The way the wildlife articles were processed, packed and transported indicate involvement of organized mafias in wildlife trade. No conclusive evidence of collusion of forest officials is available.

(c) The important cases regarding seizures of Panther, Tiger and Other skins detected in uttar Pradesh have been handed over to CBI. The measures adopted by Government of India to conserve and protect wildlife are given in Annexure [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 20]. The list of wild animals that are supposed to be extinct or on the verge of extinction is given in Annexure [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 20].

Telecast of environment films

*†1419. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for telecasting films based on the environment and jungle;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reason therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry has been approaching the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, from time to time for telecast of environment and forests related films, as a part of its environmental education and training scheme. Doordarshan has been telecasting some films on its various channels.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has presently withheld commissioning of new films in view of the Prasar Bharti's policy of not guaranteeing telecast of films produced by various Ministries and to charge telecast fee in case it decides to telecast the same. A Media Committee has been constituted by the Ministry to look into these aspects.

Protection of wild ass in the Rann of Kutch

1420. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Salt Industry threatens wild ass in the little Rann of Kutch", published in The Indian Express of 9th March, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of news item where it is mentioned that salt industry and noise and air pollution are driving wild ass in the Rann of Kutch to extinction.

(c) An area of 4953.70 sq. kms. have been declared as Wild Ass Sanctuary and the settlement of its boundaries is being done on top priority.